



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Library of Virginia Honors Deaf History Month With a Talk and Exhibition on the History of a Shenandoah County Deaf Village and Shared Signing Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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RICHMOND, VIRGINIA – In honor of April as Deaf History Month, the Library of Virginia will present a talk on April 22 and a traveling panel exhibition running April 1–30 on the history of the Lantz Mills deaf village and shared signing community in Shenandoah County, Virginia. Both are free.

Between 1740 and 1970, Lantz Mills, Virginia, was home to many families with a mix of hearing and deaf parents and at least one or more deaf siblings. When both the hearing and deaf members of a locality use a shared visual language to communicate, that is known as a shared signing community. Those familiar with deaf culture may know that Martha's Vineyard, the island off Massachusetts, was home to a shared signing community where 25% of the population was deaf. But few know that Virginia had a deaf village and shared signing community in Shenandoah County.

The Lantz Mills Deaf Village panel exhibition has appeared at Shenandoah County Public Library and the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People. It will visit the Eastern Shore Public Library in June. The exhibition is available for display at public libraries and other cultural facilities. For more information, contact Barbara Batson at barbara.batson@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3721.

The talk and exhibition are made possible in part with federal funding provided through the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. For more information about the commonwealth's deaf culture, visit the Virginia Deaf Culture Digital Library at <https://deaflibva.org>.

DEAF HISTORY MONTH TALK | The Lantz Mills Shared Signing Community

Saturday, April 22, 2023 | 10:00–11:00 a.m. | Free

Place: Lecture Hall, Library of Virginia, 800 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219

Registration suggested: <https://lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/10478065>

In honor of Deaf History Month, the Library presents a talk exploring the history of the Lantz Mills deaf village in Shenandoah County, Virginia, by deaf historian and advocate Kathleen Brockway, who is also a Lantz Mills deaf village descendant.

DEAF HISTORY MONTH PANEL EXHIBITION | Lantz Mills Deaf Village

April 1–30, 2023 | Monday–Saturday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. | Free

Place: Lobby & Pre-function Hall, Library of Virginia, 800 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219

In honor of Deaf History Month, the Library presents a panel exhibition exploring the history of the Lantz Mills deaf village in Shenandoah County, Virginia. This six-panel traveling exhibition features the history of prominent deaf villagers such as the Hollar and Christian families, deaf members' involvement in local businesses, and even a budding romance within the community. Each panel includes a QR code that links to ASL interpretation of the text featured. A booklet about the topic written by deaf historian and Lantz Mills deaf village descendant Kathleen Brockway will be available to exhibition visitors while supplies last.

Related images are available here:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/rlrbscdiee3dof2/AAAzNJOVu_7fCAYiV9Tj7DzTa?dl=0

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ABOUT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

The Library of Virginia is the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our online offerings attract nearly 3.8 million website visits per year, and our resources, exhibitions and events bring in nearly 100,000 visitors each year. The Library's collections, containing more than 130 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens. The Library is located in downtown Richmond near Capitol Square at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Learn more at www.lva.virginia.gov.